



Department of Housing

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Jose's Sixth Project Homeless Connect Meets Greatest Success Yet

As San Jose temperatures rose to a record high for May 15th, homeless clients, service providers, and volunteers gathered at the City's sixth Project Homeless Connect (PHC) event to set some records of their own. Since the City of San Jose began hosting these one-day, one-stop shop events for the homeless and at-risk in 2005 they have met with tremendous success; the latest event built on this success with an expanded array of services offered and record numbers of services given.

About 850 clients and over 300 volunteers turned out to McEnery Convention Center for the event, which was held in Exhibit Hall one from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. 800 meals were served by City Team Ministries and 253 haircuts were given by students at Gavilan College's Department of Cosmetology.

For the first time there was a significant local landlord presence at the event courtesy of the efforts of Silicon Valley Education Foundation's Adam Moreno. These landlords added their resources to those of homeless service providers including EHC LifeBuilders and InnVision, both a consistent presence at PHC. As a result, 2 people received keys to housing on the day of the event. At least 15 other PHC clients have moved into housing since the event or will move in soon.

Also for the first time at this event clients had onsite access to primary medical care provided by Gardner Family Health Network, Inc., which has been a stalwart presence at previous events, providing other medical services. Through this added service, Gardner provided 36 PHC clients with primary medical care.

Cynthia, a volunteer at the event, helped clients access medical and other services. "I helped four homeless men get medical and dental, to get showers and haircuts," she said, "I left home today with a great feeling, knowing I helped someone less fortunate than myself. I feel this is a great event."

IDs were available from the DMV onsite for the first time as well. Santa Clara Adult Education gave out 188 ID vouchers for clients to receive this service for free.

Goodwill's Human Resources department also accepted 30 or more job applications from clients for jobs at Goodwill.

These numbers are indicative of PHC's success and particularly of the growth San Jose's PHC events have made since their inception in 2005. But for a more personal look at the impact of the event one may look to the words of Michael, a client and volunteer.

"Today was great. I was able to help people as a volunteer and receive help myself like an ID, haircut, plus food and clothes. The Homeless Connect Program is a success!" Michael plans to volunteer again at the next PHC event, which will be held in November or December of 2008.

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Thank you for your time and interest in Project Homeless Connect!

With best wishes,

*Megan Quinn
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